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# Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 25 | Min 22 | Humidity 84% Light rain | Sensex 84,363 | Nifty 25,843 | Gold 1,29,650 | Silver 1,56,701 | Dollar 87.87 | Euro 102.42 | GBP 117.87

## TAKE IT OR LEAF IT

B'luru can soon turn leaf litter into manure as work orders issued to install 47 leaf composting units across various localities

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## HAVING A BLAST

Citizens cry lack of safety measures, disregard of SOP as cracker shop creates chaos in residential area

PAGE 5

### From pens to lipsticks: Youngsters find creative ways to hid vapes as menace spreads silently; doctors warn this could fuel rising heart risks and police crackdown continues

# PLANET OF VAPES

## 20 cases reported this year after raids based on tip-offs

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Despite being banned in India since 2019, vaping continues to gain popularity among young adults and teenagers, with devices now being sold freely through black markets and social media channels. What makes the situation even more concerning is how these e-cigarettes are cleverly disguised; some resemble regular cigarettes, while others mimic everyday objects such as pens, lipstick tubes, or USB drives, making it easier for users to conceal them from parents, teachers, and even law enforcement authorities.

According to police data, only one case was registered under COTPA for e-cigarettes in 2021 but the number gradually rose to 15 cases in 2022, 46 in 2023, and 24 in 2024. So far, 20 cases have been reported in 2025. Police officials explained that raids are conducted based on specific tip-offs.

"This is quite a serious issue. We've already conducted several raids and seized a lot of stock. We usually get information about how these illegal stocks are being circulated. Nowadays, to avoid getting caught by the police or even their parents, people are coming up with all sorts of clever ways or innovative ways to hide them.

But eventually even those objects will come to light and we will take strict action against it," says Seemanth Kumar Singh, City Police Commissioner,

> **"Nowadays, to avoid getting caught, people are coming up with all sorts of clever ways to hide them. But eventually even those objects will come to light and we will take strict action against it"**
>
> —Seemanth Kumar Singh, City Police Commissioner

Doctors talk of the issues that tag along with this troublesome behaviour. "The growing appeal of vaping as a social activity is first and foremost driven by peer pressure," Dr. Venkatesh TK, Senior Interventional Cardiologist, Apollo Hospitals, said.

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# Troubled waters

## 2,000 villages in state have more fluoride in their groundwater than permissible limits, 20 have too much arsenic

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More than 2,000 villages in Karnataka now have groundwater concentration of fluoride higher than the permissible 1.5mg/L.

That apart, as many as 20 villages are affected by high levels of arsenic in groundwater. These are some aspects highlighted in reports by the State Government to the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA).

As per the report, safe drinking water in the 20 arsenic-affected villages is being provided through alternate sources such as the Multi Village Scheme (MVS).

Among villages affected by fluoride contamination, 144 are covered under MVS, 1,636 are covered under RO-based water purification plants, and 303 villages are covered with alternate bore well sources.

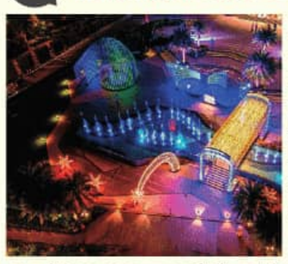
Experts say more than 2,000 villages with a high concentration of fluoride is an alarming number, indicating over-exploitation of groundwater.

According to Dr TV Ramachandra of the Centre for Ecological Sciences at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), high fluoride levels in groundwater are mostly geogenic

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

## THINGS TO DO

### 01 Luminous Diwali



Phoenix Mall of Asia presents "Sitaro Ki Diwali," India's immersive light festival featuring large-scale installations, rhythmic light patterns, and interactive displays, creating a radiant, multisensory celebration of Diwali, art, and imagination for all ages. **Where: Phoenix Mall of Asia; When: Ongoing during Diwali season**

### 02 Trash to treasure

Witness Bengaluru transforms e-waste into stunning art installations at Echoes of Earth Festival 2025, alongside rewards for contributors and a city-wide drive promoting sustainability and creativity. **Where: Social outlets, Hebbal, Church Street, Koramangala, Indiranagar; When: October 18 – November 2**

### 03 Soulful poetry

Urban Solace presents Padmini in "Tuesdays with the Bard," featuring heartfelt verses reflecting memory, longing, resilience, and life's quiet moments. Experience India's longest-running poetry event with soulful storytelling and emotional reflections. **When: Nov 8, 10 am – 4 pm**

### 04 Halloween fun

Openhouse invites parents and children to a spooktacular Halloween Playdate featuring glow-in-the-dark art, haunted crafts, sensory play, and games, offering laughter, costumes, creativity, and magical moments for kids aged 1–8 years. **Where: All Openhouse Centres – Bangalore; When: Nov 2, 10 am to 6.30 pm**

### 05 Curiosity & creativity

Eklavya Early Years invites children aged 2–10 and families to a day-long festival celebrating curiosity, play, and joyful learning, featuring storytelling, music, pottery, block printing, animal interactions, and hands-on creative workshops. **Where: Eklavya Early Years; When: November 8, 10 am – 4pm**

# Leaf waste to be turned into fertile garden compost

## Leaf composters to be installed citywide, transforming waste into useful organic manure while encouraging community participation and sustainable urban waste management

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In a significant move toward sustainable waste management, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) has issued work orders to install 47 leaf composting units across various localities in the city. The initiative, titled 'Namma Yele, Namma Gobra' (Our Leaves, Our Compost), aims to tackle the persistent problem of leaf litter piles that often turn into black spots or are burnt, contributing to air pollution. By converting leaf litter into compost, residents will soon be able to use nutrient-rich manure for home gardens and terrace plants.

On October 10, BSWML issued a work order for the supply and installation of leaf composters. Padmashree Balaram, President of the Koramangala 1st Block RWA, had been following up with BSWML for a long time. Progress began after BSWML CEO Karee Gowda supported the initiative and released the work order. Balaram said, "There are many enthusiastic and knowledgeable citizens in Bengaluru keen to engage with BSWML to improve segregation levels and reduce waste being transported to landfills. We proposed a Street Leaf Management plan, where volunteers in each locality identify streets with significant leaf litter and suitable locations to install leaf composters. Volunteers will maintain the composters, and the compost will be shared among residents. Once the CEO agreed, I contacted a vendor for supply and installation and created a WhatsApp group for interested residents. Based on responses, composters will be installed across the city."

Instead of burning fallen leaves, residents will soon turn them into rich compost for gardens through the 'Namma Yele, Namma Gobra' initiative

She added that Koramangala already has 100 composters installed through MLA funds, with positive results and no leaf or flower waste on streets. "Once new composters are installed, we will raise awareness among pourakarmikas to utilise them for street leaf litter. Volunteers will monitor the composters, adding water, cow dung, or microbes as needed to produce quality compost for local gardens and terraces," she said.

**On October 10, BSWML approved installation of leaf composters following persistent efforts by Koramangala 1st Block RWA President Padmashree Balaram**

The first round of composting is expected to take 4–5 months, after which residents will receive rich compost for plants and gardens. "Residents can put pooja flowers, fruit, and vegetable peels in the composter. This will support home gardening and help eliminate burning of waste in the area," Balaram added.

## Teacher eligibility test set for December 7

The Department of School Education has announced the schedule for the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET). The online application process will open on October 23 and close on November 9. The examination will be conducted on December 7, with Paper 1 (for Classes 1–5) from 9.30 am to 12 noon, and Paper 2 (for Classes 6–8) from 2 pm to 4.30 pm. The exam fee is ₹700 for general and OBC candidates for one paper and ₹1,000 for both. For SC/ST candidates, the fee is ₹350 for one paper and ₹500 for both. Results are expected by the end of December. More details are available on the department's official website: schooleducation.karnataka.gov.in. **— BMB**

## PU colleges under academic performance review

The Department of Pre-University Education has launched a statewide survey to assess the academic status of PU colleges and collect detailed performance data. The initiative follows reports of certain institutions violating admission guidelines and facing a decline in student enrolments.

The department has assigned the task to District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) under the DSERT framework. Using prescribed formats, officials will visit colleges, review academic activities, and upload their findings on a dedicated mobile application. Principals and lecturers of government PU colleges have been instructed to extend full cooperation to the visiting officers.

An official said, "Each district's DIET will deploy senior lecturers to collect data using a standardised questionnaire. In colleges lacking senior staff, available lecturers will carry out the process to ensure timely completion. The Directorate of PU Education has directed district-level officers to monitor progress and submit reports every 15 days. The department has also warned that any official found obstructing or failing to cooperate with the inspection will face disciplinary action." **— BMB**

## Government school enrolment drops 19 percent

Despite the Karnataka government's multiple initiatives to attract students—from improving infrastructure to providing free uniforms, textbooks, and mid-day meals—enrollment in government schools has dropped sharply by 19% over the past decade. Official data shows that government schools had 47.1 lakh students in 2015–16, but the number has now declined to 38.2 lakh, resulting in 25,683 schools having fewer than 50 students in the 2025–26 academic year.

The state currently runs 46,174 government schools, including 19,603 primary, 21,676 upper primary, and 4,895 high schools. Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa announced plans to boost admissions by expanding Karnataka Public Schools from LKG to 12th grade and launching a statewide enrollment drive in November. Officials cite several reasons for the decline—parents' preference for private schools, teachers burdened with non-teaching duties, and inadequate learning facilities. "Despite new schemes, declining enrollment remains a serious concern," said an Education Department official. **— BMB**

## Govt violates rule, moves teachers out

In a move drawing sharp criticism, the Karnataka government has transferred 55 high school assistant teachers to non-teaching technical posts, despite a 2006-07 law prohibiting such diversions. Approved by the Chief Minister on August 20, the teachers were appointed as program assistants, librarians, technical staff, and statistical inspectors in DIET offices—roles requiring subject-specific expertise. Reports indicate some transfers were influenced by MLA recommendations when teachers could not secure preferred postings. With nearly 71,000 teacher vacancies, diverting staff to administrative roles risks weakening classroom instruction and overall education quality. **— BMB**

# Lecturer ends life; alleges dowry harassment

A 26-year-old lecturer took her life by jumping into the M Visvesvaraya Dam, also called Ghati Dam, following an eight-minute video in which she accused her husband and in-laws of harassment.

Her body was discovered on Monday morning near the Doddaballapur Women Police Station, on the outskirts of Bengaluru.

The deceased, Pushpavathi (30), had married Venu, a resident of Tapasihalli, 11 months ago and was employed as a lecturer in a private college. She had been reported missing for two days before the grim discovery.

In the video, Pushpavathi described her married life as unhealthy, claiming her husband avoided her and refused to live with her properly. She alleged repeated verbal abuse and stated that her in-laws demanded dowry and property, even suggesting she sleep with her brother-in-law if she wished to have children. She also accused her brother-in-law of mental harassment.

Pushpavathi recounted a physical assault by her husband's family around 15 days ago, during which she sustained injuries, and her father-in-law allegedly warned her against filing any complaint. She further said she was strangled and thrown out of the house during a later argument, and that her brother, who tried to intervene, was also assaulted.

A missing person case was filed on Sunday, and following the recovery of her body, police registered a case under Section 80 (dowry death) of the BNS. Husband Venu and father-in-law Govindappa have been detained and are under questioning, while others named in the case, including mother-in-law Bharthi and brother-in-law Narayanaswamy, are being investigated. **BMB**

# Engineering dropout jumps to death from mall building

A 34-year-old man died by suicide after reportedly jumping from the third floor of GT World Mall at around 9.50 am on Monday.

According to the police, the deceased has been identified as Sagar, who was found with severe head injuries and was declared dead on the scene.

Preliminary inquiries revealed that Sagar had been battling depression for nearly a decade and was undergoing psychiatric treatment. He lived with his parents and sister at KHB Colony, Papaya Garden. His father is employed with Canara Bank.

Police said Sagar was an engineering dropout who had failed a few subjects and had

**Probe reveals man had been battling depression for nearly a decade and was undergoing psychiatric treatment**

remained unemployed. He had reportedly attempted suicide three years ago by jumping onto metro tracks but was rescued in time.

On Monday morning, he told his father he needed ₹200 to recharge his phone and left home. When his father later noticed that Sagar had left his mobile phone behind, he grew concerned and began searching for him near the bus stop and metro station. Meanwhile, Sagar is believed to have taken an auto to GT World Mall, where he jumped from the third floor.

The mall's security staff alerted authorities after witnessing the incident, following which a Hoysala patrol unit and KP Agrahara Police rushed to the spot. A case of Unnatural Death (UDR) was registered and the body has been sent for post-mortem examination, and police have informed the family, who were reportedly in shock.

**(If you or someone you know is struggling with suicidal thoughts, reach out to Tele-Manas helpline: 14416 or 1800-891-4416, SAHAI Helpline: 080-25497777)**

# Gutka: Biting more than we can chew

As part of regular clean up drives across the city, residents of Domlur in collaboration with Beautiful Bharat on a recent drive raised the issue of gutkha/pan masala packet menace in the city.

"In addressing an issue like litter from excessive chewing of gutkha and pan masala, the strategy is to show how much of this item is seen on every street, taking away from visual cleanliness, health, hygiene and national pride too. This is a group of many organisations across the city coming together as part of the 'Enforce the gutka ban' campaign. A brand audit will be done, and consolidated responses across city plogs are being tabled to present our officials with data to highlight just how huge a problem this chewing habit now is," said Odette Katrak, Founder, Beautiful Bharat.

At this event at Domlur Layout this weekend, residents collected litter from pan masala, gutka packets, plus the accompanying menthol wrappers the chewers use to mask the smell, she noted.

"Working with different stakeholders becomes important. Sale in plastic sachets is already banned via the plastic waste management rules 2016. So, till we are successful in getting the ban on these enforced, we do the next best thing - engage with those who sell, those who chew and residents who do neither, to each take measures that collectively ensure less litter or spitting by those who consume. GBA marshals presence during the event had added significance as they are able to give a stern warning to vendors too about the litter angle. As yet, they are not fining vendors for sale of these packets which we hope will change, though they are fining for sale of loose cigarettes," she explained. **BMB**

# Pedestrian out: Business as usual on Jayanagar footpath

## Illegal parking adds to space crunch due to businesses spilling onto footpath as authorities yet to construct complex for vegetable vendors evicted six years ago

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If the brazen encroachment of footpaths around Jayanagar Shopping Complex is any indication, it appears that elected representatives, traffic police, and Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) authorities have forgotten their responsibility and the very purpose of their existence. Hundreds of two-wheelers are parked on the footpath, while the remaining space is encroached upon by street vendors with impunity. It is quite shocking to see no traffic police present in the vicinity to deter or advise against parking two-wheelers on the footpath.

Authorities are said to have yet to take measures to construct a complex to accommodate vegetable vendors who were evicted six years ago.

Bangalore Mirror had published a story — Shoplifting Civic Body — on March 1, 2023, narrating how the then BBMP shifted around 150 tenants from the shopping complex and continued collecting rent from them without constructing the new complex even after four years. Another BM report — Jayanagar Footpaths Vanish as Vendors Take Over Road — published on June 8, 2025, detailed how encroached footpaths and roads in Jayanagar 4th Block endanger pedestrians daily as vendors occupy public space and authorities fail to enforce regulations effectively.

The footpath along the Jayanagar Shopping Complex (on 10th Main) is completely occupied by vendors and by haphazard, illegal parking of vehicles, leaving no space for pedestrians. "We can't afford to question street vendors who occupy the footpath illegally. It is a shame

KAUSHIK JN

on the traffic police and the Greater Bengaluru Authority Chief Commissioner. I want higher authorities to visit this place to see the condition of the footpath," said Sekhar N, a pedestrian.

It is alleged that traffic police, BSCC employees, and followers of local politicians have been collecting hafta from unauthorised street vendors. Demanding that the traffic police and BSCC authorities end the encroachment of footpaths around Jayanagar Shopping Complex, former corporator (Byrasandra ward) N Nagaraju said pedestrians, especially senior citizens, have been facing a lot of problems due to encroachments by street vendors. "I ensured footpaths were free from encroachment during my tenure. I also arranged benches for senior citizens on the footpaths around Jayanagar Shopping Complex. Now, senior citizens cannot walk freely. Neither the elected representative nor the BSCC authorities are taking measures to make footpaths free from vendors," said Nagaraju.

Stating that it is nauseating to see a few vendors converting the vacant space between the footpath and the defunct vegetable market complex into an open urinal, Ganesh S, a senior citizen, said he earlier came for evening walks around Jayanagar Shopping Complex but now finds hardly any space for pedestrians. "The state government is contemplating major projects, including the tunnel road project, for Bengaluru. I do not know how much time the state government needs to demolish the defunct vegetable market and construct a new structure. It has been pending for quite a long time," he said.

> **"The state government is thinking of big projects such as tunnel road project, but I do not know how much time it needs to demolish the defunct vegetable market and construct a new structure**
> – N Nagaraju, former corporator

Meanwhile, Jayanagar MLA C K Ramamurthy said that he had written to the state government seeking development of the Jayanagar Shopping Complex. "I have raised the issue during the Assembly session. I even invited Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar to visit Jayanagar, but he has been avoiding visiting the area for reasons best known to him," said Ramamurthy.

# Bengaluru suburban rail project finally sees progress

After receiving government approval, construction work for the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP) has finally begun, marking the first tangible progress in five years. A Hyderabad-based construction company has started work on the Kasturi Nagar station along the Baiyappanahalli–Chikkabanavara corridor. K-Ride had signed a crore contract to construct eight stations in total — Benniganahalli (elevated interchange), Kasturi Nagar, Sevanagar, Banaswadi, Nagawara, Kanakanagar, Hebbal, and Mattikere.

### Eco-friendly stations

An official said, "The construction company is responsible for designing station entrances and exits, steel staircases over bridges, elevated roof structures, and architectural façades.

The stations will feature solar panel installations and rainwater harvesting systems, aiming for eco-friendly, partially self-sufficient operations." K-Ride officials stated that 20–30% of each station's electricity needs will be met through renewable measures. Stations will be built following IBGC Platinum green certification standards, ensuring minimal environmental impact.

> **"The construction company is responsible for designing station entrances and exits, steel staircases over bridges, elevated roof structures, and architectural facades**
> – Official

### Nine-coach design, long delay

Earlier, there was debate over whether stations should accommodate 3, 6, or 9-coach trains. The finalised 2019 Detailed Project Report (DPR) mandates design for 9-coach trains. The BSRP has been under discussion for years, and five years have passed since government approval, but commercial operations have yet to begin. Activists point out that the delay reflects a lack of political will and bureaucratic follow-through.

### PM's promise, work status

The project, first proposed in 1983 to create a suburban rail service similar to Mumbai's, was mentioned in the 2019 Union Budget and formally approved on August 21, 2020, with a six-year completion timeline. The foundation stone was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June 2022, who promised completion of the 148 km network within 40 months. As of now, construction has begun on only two corridors, with 30% work completed on Corridor 2 and 10% on Corridor 4, leaving much of the project pending.

**— BMB**

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9591233247
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Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

### Cracked pavement
**Marthahalli**

A broken slab near Marathahalli Market is posing a serious safety hazard for pedestrians and commuters in the area.

### Traffic snarl
**Byrasandra**

Street vendors near an institute and hospital in Byrasandra are blocking roads, cause traffic jams and obstructing ambulance movement.

### Garbage zone
**Devasandra**

Plastic waste dumped along a gym on the main road has locals urging cleanup, tree trimming, and park development to maintain a clean, plastic-free environment.

Above: KR Market was crowded with festival shoppers on Monday morning; Right: Citizens lit up lamps and green firecrackers to celebrate Deepavali in the evening

# Cracker of a problem

## Unregulated firecracker sales on Sacred Heart Road spark traffic snarls, safety fears, and resident outrage over officials' failure to enforce rules

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Sale of firecrackers on Sacred Heart Road near Thambu Chetty Palya has caused traffic jams and inconvenience to thousands of families residing in nearby layouts. Residents said they are not against the sale of firecrackers but are deeply concerned about the lack of safety measures, disregard for standard operating procedures (SOP), and the apathy of the authorities concerned.

Residents alleged that the owner of the firecracker godown even attempted to manhandle one of them for objecting to the sale on the narrow road. They said authorities have failed to act strictly against the dealer despite repeated complaints.

"It has become difficult for us to commute on this narrow road due to the haphazard parking of vehicles by people thronging the godown to buy firecrackers. The dealer has been selling firecrackers during Diwali for more than 20 years, causing major inconvenience. We fear for our safety in case of a fire mishap," said Anthony Raj, a resident.

He added that he lodged a complaint with the KR Puram Police against the firecracker dealer for causing chaos and attempting to manhandle him. "I hope the authorities take suitable action and relocate the godown to a safer location," he said.

Echoing his concern, C Krishna from Kithaganur said motorists struggle to commute on this stretch, which connects several layouts such as Marthamma Layout, DNS Layout, Manjunatha Layout, Green Paradise, and Green Park Layout. "The dealer has not followed the SOP, and the authorities responsible for enforcing it seem oblivious to the godown's existence," he added.

Meanwhile, KR Puram Police Inspector said the firecracker dealer possesses a valid licence from the competent authorities. "I am aware that Sacred Heart Road is narrow, but the dealer has permission from the authorities to sell firecrackers," the inspector said.

Residents, however, insist that the issue is not about legality but about public safety and civic responsibility.

A long queue outside the firecracker shop on Sacred Heart Road near Thambu Chetty Palya, on Monday

**Residents near Thambu Chetty Palya decry chaos caused by firecracker sales, alleging traffic disruption, safety violations, and police apathy as the dealer continues operations despite repeated complaints and rising risks**

### Four suffer eye injuries on first day of festivities

Minto Ophthalmic Hospital reported four cases of firecracker-related eye injuries on the first day of Deepavali celebrations. Fortunately, all patients were treated on an outpatient basis, with no surgeries or admissions required. According to hospital officials, the victims included two adults and two children. Two cases were minor, while the other two were classified as grievous.

A 48-year-old man suffered an eye injury as a bystander when an atom bomb cracker exploded nearby. In another incident, an 11-year-old boy sustained a serious injury while lighting a bijli cracker. Two more cases involved boys aged 12 and 14 one injured by a rocket and the other by a pistol-type cracker. Doctors said timely treatment prevented further complications.

### Dispute over fireworks sparks violent altercation in Hennur

Two individuals, Kiran and Bharath, were allegedly assaulted by a group of five men on the night of Deepavali following a dispute over firecrackers. The incident occurred around 9.15 pm on Sunday night under Hennur police station limits. According to police, the altercation began when firecrackers lit by the victims accidentally fell on one of the accused, identified as Syed, sparking a heated argument that soon turned violent. The injured victims were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment. Police arrested three of the accused Ammen Sharief (24), Syed Arbaz (20), and She'd Khadar on Monday afternoon between 12.00 pm and 12.30 pm. Two others remain absconding, and a search is underway. A case has been registered, and further investigation is in progress.

## Sweets, flowers, lamps & fireworks

Karnataka celebrated Deepavali with enthusiasm on Monday as devotees thronged temples, decorated homes with flowers and lamps, and lit green firecrackers to mark the festival of lights. Dressed in new clothes, people exchanged greetings and sweets, celebrating the triumph of light over darkness.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar extended greetings to citizens, urging them to celebrate safely and responsibly. On social media, Siddaramaiah appealed to people to shun pollution, saying, "May this festival dispel the darkness of hatred, falsehood, and poverty, and spread the light of peace and wisdom." Shivakumar wished that the festival "brings progress, prosperity, and abundance to everyone."

Bengaluru's markets, including KR Market, Chickpet, and Avenue Road, were abuzz with festive shoppers buying sweets, lamps, and flowers. The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) allowed firecrackers only between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. on October 21 and 22, while cracking down on illegal non-green crackers.

The Bengaluru Traffic Police deployed additional personnel near temples and markets to manage congestion. Meanwhile, Victoria Hospital and Minto Eye Hospital set up emergency units to handle firecracker-related injuries.

Deepavali in Karnataka spans three days — Naraka Chaturdashi, Lakshmi Puja, and Balipadyami — symbolising purification, prosperity, and devotion.

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## Twin comets light up Deepavali skies

This Deepavali, skywatchers are in for a celestial treat as two comets — Lemmon and Swan — light up the night sky. Comet Lemmon (C/2025 A6) will be faintly visible to the naked eye under dark skies and will make its closest approach to Earth on October 21, passing within 90 million km. It can be spotted briefly in the north-western evening sky near the constellation Ursa Major before reaching its nearest point to the Sun on November 8. The comet's return journey won't occur for another 1,300 years. Astronomer Dr AP Bhat noted that Comet Swan (C/2025 R2) is also visible this month, though only through telescopes. Both comets offer rare opportunities for scientists to study their icy composition, helping deepen understanding of the early solar system and the cosmic origins of planets, while inspiring skywatchers to reconnect with the wonders of space.

# Karnataka's C-section surge sparks concern over maternal health choices

## Private hospitals report alarming 62% C-section rate, as lifestyle shifts, late pregnancies, and commercial pressures fuel surgical birth preference

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Doctors cite late pregnancies, lifestyle changes, and "lucky-day" deliveries as major reasons behind Karnataka's worrying surge in surgical childbirths

Karnataka has witnessed a consistent rise in Cesarean section (C-section) deliveries over the past five years, with the state's average now almost double the national average, according to the Health and Family Welfare Department's latest data. As per the statistics, the C-section rate in the state has jumped from 34% in 2020–21 to 47% in 2024–25. While private hospitals report a staggering 62% C-section rate, government hospitals register around 36%. The increasing trend of surgical deliveries in private facilities has sparked concerns and suspicions about commercial motives. The national average for C-section deliveries stands at 21%, making Karnataka's 47% significantly higher.

Tumakuru district tops the list with a C-section rate of 66%, followed by Chitradurga at 61%. Other districts in the Kalyana Karnataka region such as Vijayanagara (46%), Bidar (42%), Koppal (41%), Kalaburagi (36%), Raichur (34%), and Yadgir (28%) also report high rates.

Doctors and health experts attribute this sharp increase to multiple factors. Many expectant mothers are opting for surgical deliveries to avoid labour pain or to deliver on specific, often auspicious, dates. Changing lifestyles, delayed pregnancies, and rising incidences of gestational diabetes have also contributed to this preference. Experts note that the percentage of high-risk pregnancies has increased from 10–15% a few years ago to around 25% now.

**C-section deliveries in Karnataka have soared from 34% to 47% in five years, double the national average, raising alarm among health experts over rising risks and private sector motivations**

"C-section has become a first option rather than the last resort. Lifestyle changes, larger babies (over 3 kg), and conditions like gestational diabetes often make normal deliveries less feasible," explained health experts.

Medical professionals warn that the trend is alarming, as excessive reliance on surgical births can have long-term health consequences for mothers. "Rising C-section deliveries is a dangerous trend. It has adverse effects on the mother's health. In government hospitals, we continue to prioritize normal deliveries," said a gynaecologist. Experts have called for stronger regulations, better counselling, and awareness campaigns to encourage natural births wherever medically possible, stressing that maternal health should not become a casualty of convenience or profit motives.

## Twelve rail projects miss 2020 deadline

The construction of 12 long-pending railway underpasses and overbridges in Bengaluru, initially slated for completion by March 2020, continues to face delays due to poor inter-agency coordination.

To expedite progress, a coordination committee led by Urban Development Department Additional Chief Secretary Tushar Giri Nath has been formed to review the projects every two months. Officials now aim to complete all works by 2026. In addition, a ₹500-crore mega railway coaching terminal is being developed near Devanahalli to decongest Bengaluru stations and enable the launch of new trains. Land for the project has already been identified and surveyed. Under the 'Make in India' initiative, efforts are also on to increase the Yelahanka railway chassis factory's annual capacity from 90,000 to 1.12 lakh units, reducing reliance on imports. — BMB

## SC seeks report on missing case data

The Supreme Court has directed the Registrar General of the Karnataka High Court to explain why data on pending execution petitions has not been submitted, despite earlier directions to all High Courts across the country. A Bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and Pankaj Mithal issued the notice while reviewing compliance with its March 6 judgment in Periyammal vs. V Rajamani, which called for a nationwide assessment of execution petition backlogs.

The apex court noted that while several High Courts had furnished the requested information, the Karnataka High Court had failed to do so. The Bench observed that execution petitions—cases dealing with the enforcement of civil decrees—represent a vital stage in the justice delivery process. Delays, it said, undermine judicial efficiency and deny decree holders the practical benefit of their legal victories.

"Execution is the fruit of the decree. If the decree holder cannot enjoy that fruit for years, the purpose of litigation is defeated," the court remarked. The Registrar General has been directed to furnish the pending data and file a compliance affidavit before the next hearing. — BMB

## Non-BJP states 'always short changed': Priyank Kharge on Centre's flood relief

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge on Monday expressed displeasure over the Centre's flood relief allocation to Karnataka, alleging that BJP-ruled states consistently receive higher funds while non-NDA states are "short-changed." He said the funds released were grossly inadequate compared to the massive losses suffered by Karnataka during the monsoon.

The Union Home Ministry recently approved the advance release of ₹1,950.80 crore as the second instalment of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for Karnataka and Maharashtra. Of this, Karnataka received ₹384.40 crore, while ₹1,566.40 crore went to Maharashtra. Kharge criticised the disparity, noting that Karnataka contributes over 8.9% to India's GDP, ranks among the top GST and income tax payers, and leads in IT exports. "Despite our economic strength, the Centre stifles us by not giving enough funds. Even in devolution of taxes, Karnataka faces unfair treatment," he said, urging equitable disaster relief for all disaster-hit states across India. — BMB

BM Trippin' Tales

# Century-old Vani Vilas Sagar overflows twice in one year

## The 1907-built Marikanive Dam in Chitradurga overflows again, thrilling farmers and tourists as rains revive the Vedavathi basin

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

**For only the fourth time ever, and second time this year, the historic Vani Vilas Sagar Dam has overflowed—reviving irrigation, boosting groundwater, and turning into a breathtaking monsoon attraction**

The historic Vani Vilas Sagar (Marikanive Dam) near Hiriyur in Chitradurga district has filled to capacity and overflowed for the fourth time in its history and remarkably, for the second time this year.

Nestled between two lush green hills across the Vedavathi River, the century-old dam, a vital lifeline for the region, began overflowing on Sunday morning following continuous rainfall and fresh inflow from the Bhadra reservoir. Built in 1907, the dam last reached full capacity in 2022 after an 89-year gap since its first overflow in 1933. It filled again in early 2025 and now, just months later, has overflowed once more, a rare and joyous event for local farmers.

The water level has touched the maximum mark of 130 feet, with strong inflow continuing due to widespread rains across the catchment area. District In-charge Minister D Sudhakar called it a "divine blessing and a symbol of the government's commitment," noting that the double overflow within a year is a historic moment that revives farmer hopes and ensures irrigation for thousands of acres through canal and drip systems. Officials confirmed that water from the Bhadra reservoir and recent rains have collectively helped the dam reach its brim, bringing relief to drought-hit areas.

The full reservoir has also turned into a major tourist attraction, drawing visitors from nearby taluks, surrounding villages, and neighbouring districts. Crowds have been thronging the dam since morning to witness the gushing water cascading through its crest gates and capturing the rare sight on their cameras. Local authorities have urged visitors to avoid bathing or swimming near the spillway for safety reasons.

For Bengaluru travellers, Vani Vilas Sagar about 200 km from the city now offers a spectacular weekend getaway. The scenic drive through the green countryside leads to a breathtaking view of the overflowing dam, surrounded by misty hills and revived farmlands, a symbol of abundance and monsoon magic in central Karnataka.

# CCTV footage, evidence of no use as burglary case stagnates

## Senior citizen escalates complaint to Deputy CM, demands strengthened policing in Ramamurthy Nagar

CRIME FILES

A 65-year-old has been made to run from pillar to post to get an update about a theft complaint filed over two months ago. Seeing no progress despite repeated visits to the police station, the complainant Kochu Sankar G, has written a letter to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on October 18, urging immediate action to strengthen policing and upgrade infrastructure in the Ramamurthy Nagar Police Station limits.

The complainant, who had reported the theft of valuables from his house in late August, claims that the investigation has come to a standstill, with officers citing manpower shortage as the reason for the delay. In his letter, Sankar, a resident of Trinity Enclave, Banjara Layout, recounted a burglary at his home on August 9. Despite clear CCTV footage, he said the investigation has made little progress beyond the registration of FIR and the Panchanama.

Sankar pointed out that the Ramamurthy Nagar Police Station covers nearly 58 sq km, an area that has witnessed over tenfold population growth in the past 10 to 15 years. However, the police strength and resources have not kept pace, he writes in the letter, adding that the situation gets worse by frequent change of Inspectors and officers.

Sankar further highlighted the lack of a Bengaluru Smart City surveillance system in the area. He said night patrols are rare, police outposts remain locked, and the BCP E-beat system is yet to be implemented in high-risk zones.

### The case

According to the FIR, a couple from Banjara Layout reported a home burglary that occurred while they were out of station. CCTV footage revealed a masked intruder entering their house between 1.40 and 4.41 am after breaking the front gate and door lock. Stolen items included Rs 3,000 in cash, USD 250, AUD 90, a DVR and power supply, silver anklets, ladies' watches, and artificial jewelry valued over Rs 10,000, totaling nearly Rs 65,000. Upon returning, the couple found their home ransacked.

After contacting emergency helpline 112, a Hosyala patrol team and a sub-inspector from RM Nagar Police Station arrived but could not recover any usable fingerprints. The couple was asked to visit the station on August 11 to lodge a detailed complaint and submit CCTV footage on a thumb drive. While the FIR was acknowledged and the police initially responded promptly, there was little follow-up. The submitted CCTV footage was left unattended, and emails sent to senior officers, including the ACP, DCP, and Commissioner of Police, went unanswered.

In August, the investigating officer handling the case was arrested in a bribery case, prompting a new officer to take charge. Later, the new SHO and SI visited the site, prepared a Panchnama, and briefly conducted beat patrols in the area, which lasted about 10 days.

The complaint shared images with BM of tools found near their house that were apparently used to break the gate and door. They expressed concern that no detailed investigation or enquiry had been conducted, leaving them to discover evidence piecemeal.

"We are aware of the case. We haven't caught the thief yet. Regardless of any manpower constraints, the investigation must continue. Manpower shortage cannot be an excuse for inaction," a senior police official explained.

In the letter Sankar also makes some recommendations: Split the existing jurisdiction into two or three smaller stations, install "Safe City" cameras at key points, and upgrade police infrastructure with more vehicles and modern technology. He expressed hope that the government would act swiftly to ensure better safety for residents. —**Sanjana CS**

INBRIEF

## Child allegedly beaten up by school principal

A woman has lodged a police complaint alleging that her nine-year-old son was brutally assaulted by staff at a private school in Sunkadakatte under Kamakshipalya police limits.

According to the complaint filed last Monday, Divya Kom Shankar, of Hoysalanagar, said her son Nayan Gowda CS, a Class V student at St Mary's Public School, has been a pupil there for three years. She alleged that between 4 pm and 5 pm, the school's principal, identified as Rakesh Kumar, struck the boy repeatedly with a PVC pipe until the child suffered blood clotting. The complaint also mentioned the name of teacher Chandrika, who helped the principal to hit the child further.

Police officials explained that he had missed classes for two days last week. After class, the school principal and some teachers called him into the classroom and assaulted him with a PVC pipe. They later took him to a dark room and subjected him to further torture. The attack caused blood clots in several parts of his body.

The parents further accused the school owner, Vijayakumar, of standing by and failing to intervene. She said school staff later threatened the family, telling them to withdraw the child's transfer certificate and leave the school or face further action. The police confirmed a complaint had been received and said preliminary inquiries are under way. BMB. —**BMB**

## Missing B'luru motivational speaker found dead in Matheran gorge

The body of a 58-year-old motivational speaker from Bengaluru, who had been missing since October 15, was found in a 1200 feet deep gorge at Matheran hill station in Maharashtra's Raigad district, a police official said on Monday.

Professor Shanmuga S Balasubramaniam, a resident of Belapur in the Karnataka capital, had come to stay in Matheran between October 13 and 17 after making online reservations at a hotel, the official said. "On October 15, he went out of the hotel and went missing, following which its management alerted police. A missing person case was registered and a search was mounted. His body was found in a 1200 feet deep gorge near Eco Point on Sunday. The body was retrieved by 17 members of a private rescue team," he added. "His elder brother has claimed the body. An accidental death case was registered, but all angles, including suicide, are being probed," the official informed. —**BMB**

## JD(S) leaders protest at temple over alleged disrespect to HDK

Janata Dal (Secular) party leaders staged a protest on Sunday near the main entrance of the Hasanamba Temple, alleging that the district administration official showed disrespect to Union Minister and JD(S) state president HD Kumaraswamy.

During the protest, the situation turned chaotic as hundreds of people blocked the road.

The protesters accused the district authorities of deliberately ignoring Kumaraswamy during the temple visit, calling the act an insult to their leader.

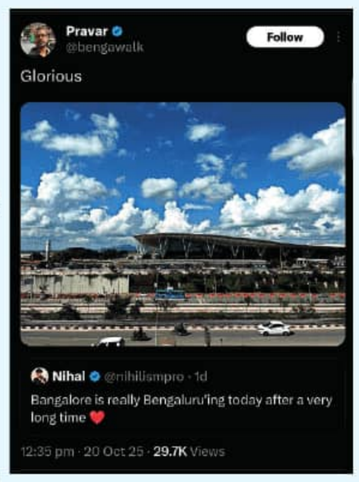
JD(S) MLA Swaroop Prakash condemned the incident, saying, "The district administration disrespected Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy when he visited the temple... So all the party workers are going for the protest."

Meanwhile, Kumaraswamy, inaugurated the 3rd Agricultural Insect Biocontrol Expo and the 33rd Foundation Day celebration of the ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (NBAIR) in Bengaluru on Sunday. —**ANI**

SOCIALTATTLE

### Image of the day

A "glorious" post was shared by user @bengawalk, featuring a picture of the city's clear sky. It was remarked by user @nihilismpro that "Bangalore is really Bengaluru'ing today after a very long time."




### What's Tweeting

A post was shared by user @laymans_ profile, noting that this year's Deepawali

laymans_profile
@laymans_profile
Follow
This time it feels like 3x Previous year's deepawali. Crackers, lights, sound.. a lot. What a turnaround. #Deepawali #Diwali #Bengaluru
8:21 pm · 20 Oct 25 · 30 Views

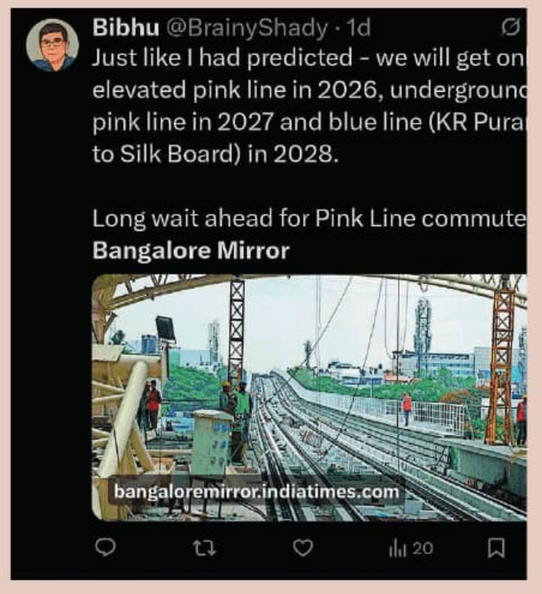
feels nearly three times grander than the previous year, with crackers, lights, and sounds filling the city, a remarkable turnaround, the user remarked.

**A fully** functional weather clock was spotted at Balaji Antiques on Avenue Road, Bengaluru, as shared in a post by user @aishatax.

Ayesha Tabassum
@aishatax
Follow
A fully functional weather clock. Spotted at Balaji Antiques on Avenue Road, Bangalore! #Bengaluru

### BM Tagged

A post was shared by user @BrainyShady, who tagged the Bangalore Mirror story titled "Long wait ahead for Pink Line commuters." It was predicted by the user


Bibhu @BrainyShady · 1d
Just like I had predicted - we will get on
elevated pink line in 2026, undergrounc
pink line in 2027 and blue line (KR Pura
to Silk Board) in 2028.
Long wait ahead for Pink Line commute
Bangalore Mirror
bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com
20

that only the elevated stretch of the Pink Line would be operational by 2026, the underground section by 2027, and the Blue Line (KR Puram to Silk Board) by 2028.

# Numbers indicate over-exploitation of groundwater, say experts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

(leaching from natural rocks found underground).

"Shockingly, not much is being done by authorities to improve the situation. While an elevated level of fluoride is mainly due to the presence of fluorine-bearing minerals in rocks and sediments, changes in land cover and land use also have some role to play," said Dr Ramachandra.

Notably, the Central Groundwater Board's (CGWB) most recent report couple of months ago showed that the stage of extraction of groundwater in Bengaluru urban is 187%, and in Bengaluru rural, it is 147%.

In Karnataka, out of 237 assessed units analysed by the Board, 45 were found to be over-exploited (extraction of water is more than 100%), 15 were critical, and 33 were found to be semi-critical. Moreover, in 5 districts, viz., Bengaluru (Rural), Bengaluru (Urban), Chikkaballapura, Chitradurga, and Kolara, the extraction was more than availability (>100%).

Additionally, the report also underlined that the domestic extraction and industrial extraction across the state have increased by 10.30% and 46.30% respectively.

"Higher levels of trace elements show up in groundwater samples when extraction is more than recharge, and we end up reaching levels where elements are naturally occurring. Moreover, land use and land cover changes, in the name of development, have been drastic over the last decade or so. It is important to implement watershed management programs and ensure that green cover in the watershed area is maintained at a minimum 33% for recharge of the water table," said a city-based groundwater expert.

## Govt will be bringing law to curb misinformation: CM

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said that his government will be bringing in a law aimed at curbing misinformation.

He also stressed on the need for communal harmony for any district or state to develop and prosper.

"We are bringing a law against misinformation. We will file cases against those indulging in misinformation, giving false information to people, and disturbing communal harmony. We are beginning a law," Siddaramiah said.

Addressing a public meeting at Puttur, he said, "I have asked HK Patil (Law Minister) to bring in a law. Priyank Kharge (IT/BT Minister) and Patil are working on it."

"I will not say who is disturbing communal harmony, we have to understand who is doing it. Any district or state can develop and prosper if there is a communal harmony. If there is no communal harmony, we will have to live in fear. So we will have to protect communal harmony," he said. **PTI**

# Ola Electronics goes to court after FIR in employee's suicide case

## Employee said to have accused company of harassment, withholding pay in death note; HC notes police acting in excessive manner

After the suicide of a 38-year-old engineer at Ola Electronics Company, Koramangala prompted a case against the founder and senior officials of the company, the company approached the High Court challenging the FIR.

The engineer, K Aravind, ended his life on September 28 at his residence in Chikkalasandra. Aravind had been working with the company since 2022. His family members found him and immediately admitted to Maharaja Agrasena Hospital, but he passed away.

Following his death, Aravind's family discovered a 28-page death note in his room. According to the note, Aravind had been facing harassment at work, including delays in salary and other allowances, from the company's Head of Homologation Engineering, Subrat Kumar Das, and owner Bavish Agarwal. Aravind reportedly stated that the continuous pressure and harassment at work drove him to consume poison.

The family lodged a complaint at the local police station on September 28. The complaint also pointed to a suspicious NEFT transfer of ₹17,46,313 made by the company to Aravind's account on September 30, which was not clearly explained by company representatives. Police are examining the case, including the financial transaction and the claims of workplace harassment.

### Court hears case

Following the registration of the FIR, Ola Electric filed a petition in the High Court seeking relief against the proceedings. Justice Mohammad Nawaz, hearing a petition filed by Agarwal, Subrat Kumar Dash, and the company, passed the order after the petitioners contended that the police were acting in an excessive manner under the guise of investigation.

The court observed, "Learned HCGP is directed to take notice for the State. Issue notice to respondent No.2. The police who are investigating into the case registered in Cr.No.372/2025 of Subramanyapura Police Station, Bengaluru City, shall not harass the petitioners in the guise of investigation. List this petition immediately after service of notice on respondent No.2."

The direction came in response to an FIR registered on October 6, following a complaint by Ashwin Kannan. According to the complaint, Aravind's suicide note accused his employers of workplace harassment and withholding salary dues and benefits.

In its statement, the company expressed deep sorrow over Aravind's death and extended condolences to his family. Ola stated that it had completed all financial settlements due to the employee and deposited the final amount into his bank account. The firm also said it was cooperating fully with the investigation and reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining a safe and supportive workplace for all employees.

The case has drawn significant attention to workplace ethics and employee welfare in the country's fast-growing electric vehicle industry. While the police investigation is ongoing, the High Court's decision on Ola Electric's petition is expected to clarify the legal responsibilities of employers in such situations. **BMB**

# Peer pressure pushes teens to e-cigarette addiction

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A recent study noted that about 19.6% of youngsters in the age bracket of 18-23 years were initiated into vaping after trying to fit in, or modeling behaviours on people they admire or look up to. "Others took to it because they believed it relieved anxiety and stress, while many others did it to overcome boredom," Dr. Venkatesh added.

Experts say that given how quickly vaping is invading the lives of youngsters, we need to start giving it more attention before it spirals into a full-blown public health emergency

According to Dr Venkatesh, parents should talk openly with their children about addiction instead of assuming they're safe from it. "Teachers too must bring the topic into classroom discussions so students hear the facts from trusted voices. Healthcare professionals can include questions about vaping during check-ups, watch for warning signs, and guide youngsters about its risks. The community can play its part by reporting illegal sales and organizing awareness drives. Even Gen Z influencers can make a big difference by busting myths, discouraging the habit, and promoting healthier, more positive lifestyles," he said.

### Cause of heart diseases

A recent survey conducted among tertiary-educated Indians of ages 18-30 across multiple Indian cities, found that 23% of them reported having used them at some point in their lives. "We're not talking about cigarettes or bidis. Those are still harmful but now another additional problem is vape devices. This growing habit has started to affect the heart health of many youngsters in big cities," Dr. Venkatesh said.

He warned that unlike what many believe, e-cigarettes harm the heart and attract young users. "Unlike regular cigarettes that burn tobacco, vapes heat a liquid containing nicotine, metals, and chemical flavourings and other harmful substances. This creates an aerosol that looks like water vapour but is actually filled with toxic mist. When inhaled, these chemicals quickly enter the bloodstream and begin to harm the heart in ways that are not always obvious at first, and then slowly damages the blood vessels. They irritate the inner lining of arteries, cause inflammation, and speed up the buildup of plaque inside the arteries in this process called atherosclerosis. This makes the arteries narrow and stiff, increasing the chances of heart attacks and strokes."

"Another harmful effect is that vaping reduces the body's ability to make nitric oxide a substance that helps blood vessels relax and widen. Without enough nitric oxide, the heart has to work harder, putting it under constant strain." Dr. Venkatesh TK added.

Doctors said that the lungs are not spared either as vaping can cause severe lung injuries such as EVALI (e-cigarette or vaping-associated lung injury) and may lead to chronic illnesses like asthma, bronchitis, and COPD.

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I, Khursheda Bee W/o Abdul Jabbar R/o3474, C Rahim Nagar , Bangarpet KGF (Kolar) Karnataka-563114 have chan - ged my name to Khurshed Bee.

I sumana manjunatha madival R/o No 3, G-1,4th main,BGS layout,jp nagar 8th phase, Bengaluru-76, Have changed my name to sumana madival.

I, Abdul Vaheed R/o 3 Rd Block Kaiwara Village Chinta mani Taluk Chikbalapur District 563128 Have Changed my name to Abdul Waheed for All Purposes.

I, SAIFULLAH SHERIFF HAFEEZ, R/a. OPP BRL House, 2nd Block, KGF Taluk, Bthamangala-563116. I, have Changed my name to SAIFULLA SHARIFF HAFEEZ, Vide affidavit, dated 17/10/2025 Sworn before Notary : Meer Hassan Bangalore-

I, SARALA R/o. No.205, Sri Lalitha Krupa, 14th Main, A Block, Subramanyanagar, Srirampura, Bangalore 560021 have changed my name to SARALA NAKKALAHALLY CHIKKA NANJUNDA REDDY vide Affidavit dt. 20.10.2025. sworn before notary Mr. C Srinivas Bengaluru.

I, R MADHUMITHA, D/o Ramesh R alias R Ramesh, R/at No.01, 2nd Main road, 4th cross Near Sriram Temple, B.K Nagar, Yeshwanthpur, Banga lore-560022, have changed my name to MADHUMITHA R, vide affidavit dt: 18/10/2025, Notary A. Manjula, Bangalore.

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TRICHY RAMESHWARAM KANYAKUMARI 5/7*10** DAYS
OCT: 26* NOV: 1**, 1, 2*, 6, 9*, 11, 11**, 12, 16, 16*, 21, 23*, 26, DEC: 1, 6, 11
ANDHRA PRADESH WITH STATUE OF EQUALITY 10/6* DAYS
OCT: 22, 26* NOV: 1, 9*, 12, 16*, 22, 23* DEC: 2, 12, 21*, 22, 25, 28*
SHIRDI NASIK/PANCHA JYOTHIRLINGA* 7*/6* DAYS
OCT: 28* NOV: 3*, 10*, 16, 17* DEC: 1*, 7, 8*, 14, 15*, 21, 22* 28
KERALA SPL./ NAVAGRAHA DARSHAN* 7/4* DAYS
OCT: 26 NOV: 2, 9, 10*, 16, 17*, 23 DEC: 7, 14, 21, 28
SOUTH INDIA 7/10* DAYS EX: MANGALORE OCT : 27 NOV: 17, 22*, DEC: 15
WHITE RANN OF KUTCH WITH BHUJ 7 DAYS DEC: 1, 4

**30 years of DDLJ—** Actor Kajol is celebrating 30 years of the iconic 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge'. Taking to her Instagram handle, Kajol shared a poster of the film, which also starrer Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, and expressed her gratitude to fans


mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
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Entertainment Industry Promotion

# No temptations

## Rashmika shares video to underline how dedicated she is to fitness and we believe her

Thamma' actress Rashmika Mandanna is setting a high bar for self-discipline ahead of her film release, showcasing her intense workout routine in a recent viral video. The Animal star skipped a tempting sweet. Adding a playful touch, Rashmika used the song 'Tum Mere Na Huye' from her upcoming horror-comedy, 'Thamma', in the background. The film, which stars Ayushmann Khurrana and Nawazuddin Siddiqui, is scheduled for release on October 21.

In the Instagram video, Rashmika showcased her dedication to fitness. The clip shows her working hard on the treadmill, dressed in stylish gym wear, and giving her full focus and energy to her workout routine. What impressed fans most was Rashmika Mandanna's self-discipline. Despite the festive season and tempting sweets around her, she refused a mouthwatering treat, showing her strong commitment to fitness. Captioning her post, she wrote, "Dear desserts, you'll always be mine. (just not today)."

> **"Mandanna's post featuring the song 'Tum Mere Na Huye' from her upcoming film 'Thamma,' adding a playful touch to her refusal of sweets**

Mandanna's post featuring the song 'Tum Mere Na Huye' from her upcoming film 'Thamma,' adding a playful touch to her refusal of the sweet plate.

The 'Animal' actress is set to wow audiences in the upcoming horror-comedy Thamma. Directed by Aditya Sarpotdar and produced by Maddock Films, the film stars Ayushmann Khurrana as Alok and Rashmika as Tadaka. Nawazuddin Siddiqui plays the antagonist, Yakshasan, the king of darkness who challenges their love. Adding to the buzz, Malaika will make a special appearance in a dance number. Paresh Rawal, Geeta Aggarwal, and Faisal Malik provide comic relief in the otherwise dark story. Set in a fictional world, 'Thamma' promises a suspenseful and thrilling love story with elements of romance.

**—ETimes**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

## Story of a fan of CM

Anup Revanna, who was seen in Lakshmana, Kabzaa, and Hide and Seek, gears up for his latest movie Kanakaraja. The movie, billed as a political drama, has a tagline - Fan of CM. Minister for Transport and Muzrai Department Ramalinga Reddy and Anup's father Guarantees Panel chairman HM Revanna attended a muhurat function of the film. Kanakaraja is being bankrolled by SR Sanath Kumar under the Sukruthi Chitralaya banner while Dr V Nagendra Prasad has written the script, screenplay, dialogues for this movie apart from scoring music. VM Raju and Neel Kengapura are the directors.

"This movie has a message for youth. We plan to shoot the movie not only in Karnataka but also in neighbouring states and abroad," said Sanath Kumar.

Nagendra Prasad said the movie revolves around youth and politics.

"The protagonist in the movie is a lawyer. He becomes active in politics and also a hardcore fan of the Chief Minister," he said.

## Red carpet welcome

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures held a star-studded gathering, marking its annual Academy Museum Gala on Saturday.

Among the standout moments of the evening was the first official red carpet appearance of newlyweds Selena Gomez and Benny Blanco, who made their public debut as a married couple.

The couple, who tied the knot in an intimate ceremony in Santa Barbara, California, in September, turned heads at the event with their coordinated yet individualistic fashion choices.

Gomez, known for her fashion-forward elegance, was seen exuding vintage Hollywood charm in a glamorous black gown with sparkly embellishments. She complemented the outfit with a black suit jacket draped over her shoulders, bold red lipstick, and statement earrings. Her hair was styled in a sophisticated updo, further enhancing the classic aesthetic.

Benny Blanco opted for a stylish ensemble featuring a shiny blue shirt, black jacket, and matching pants, subtly echoing his wife's colour palette.

Gomez paused for a few solo pictures after arriving at the main venue before the festivities took over. Later, the couple paused for a brief photo session together, where they were all smiling and cheerful.

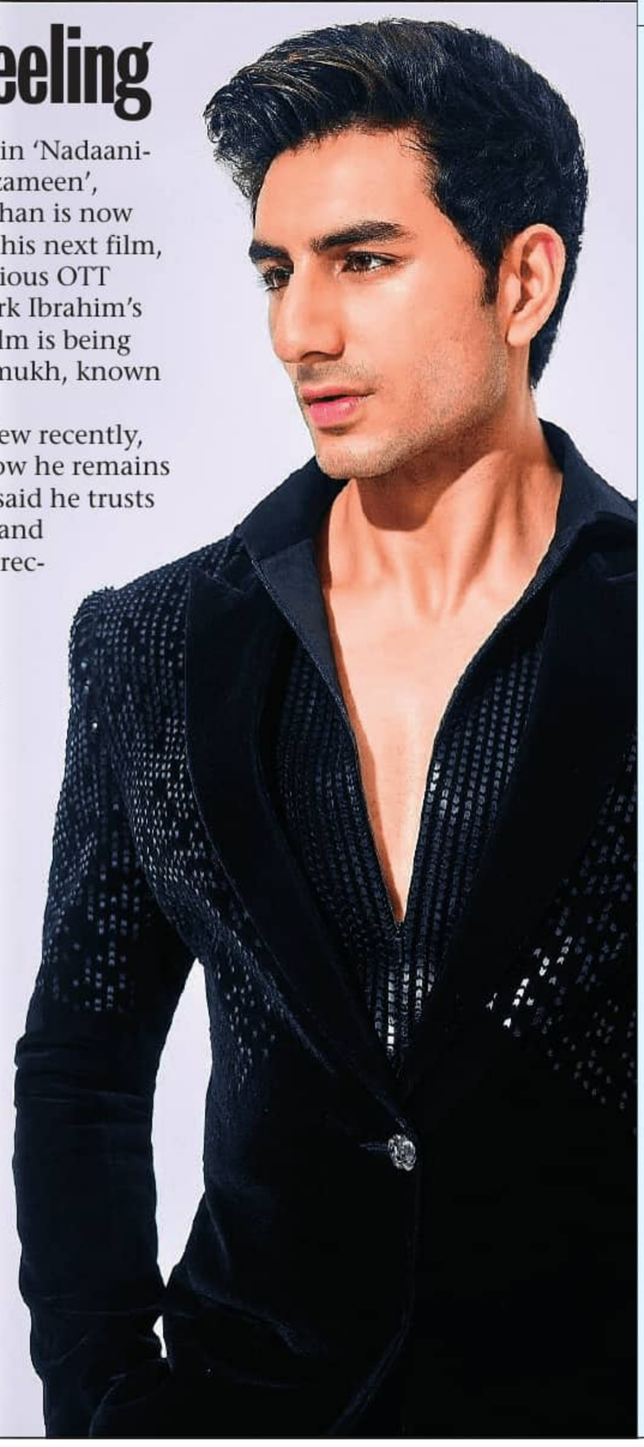
**—ANI**

## A good feeling

After featuring in 'Nadaaniyan' and 'Sarzameen', Ibrahim Ali Khan is now preparing for his next film, 'Diler'. Unlike his previous OTT releases, 'Diler' will mark Ibrahim's big-screen debut. The film is being directed by Kunal Deshmukh, known for his previous film, 'Jannat.' In an interview recently, Ibrahim opened up on how he remains hopeful about 'Diler'. He said he trusts Kunal Deshmukh's vision and believes the experienced director will present him in the best way possible.

In an interview with Esquire India, he shared that his upcoming film 'Diler' is being directed by Kunal Deshmukh, an experienced filmmaker. Further, he said he feels confident that Kunal will be able to present him well on screen. "I've really sat on the script this time around. Kunal Deshmukh sir is a really experienced director. He's very good and can present me well. I'm not taking shots at my previous directors, but the truth is that they are also first-time filmmakers. You have to think about that."

The young actor who has earlier worked with debut directors Shauna Gautam's 'Nadaaniyan' and Kayoze Irani's 'Sarzameen' also added that he has a 'good' feeling about this film. **—ETimes**



## Unique title

After titles such as Murane Class Manja B.Com Bhagya, Huchcha, Kichcha, Chamkayisi Chinidi Udaisi, Y2K, Time Pass, and Dakota Express, now 4.30 rinda 6 muhurtha Naalvaru Kaanisuththilla (The muhurat is between 4.30 and 6 Four people are missing) - has joined the list of movies with peculiar titles.

The movie is bankrolled by Dharmashree Manjunath and D Yogaraj while Poovai Suresh and Shivaraj are the directors. MS Suchith, the son of producer Dharmashree Manjunath is playing the lead while Sathvika is paired opposite him.

It is the fifth movie being bankrolled under the Neelakanta Films banner. "The movie is about bonding among family members. People used to visit relatives and friends to extend invitations to marriage functions in the 1990s but now they just send invites on the phones," said D Yogaraj, one of the producers.

Manjunath said Suchith has acted in a few Kannada movies, but this will be his maiden movie as a hero.

## SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

(6!! x 10^2) / (4# x 10^-3) x (4!! x 10^-1) = ?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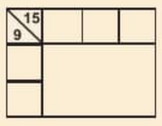
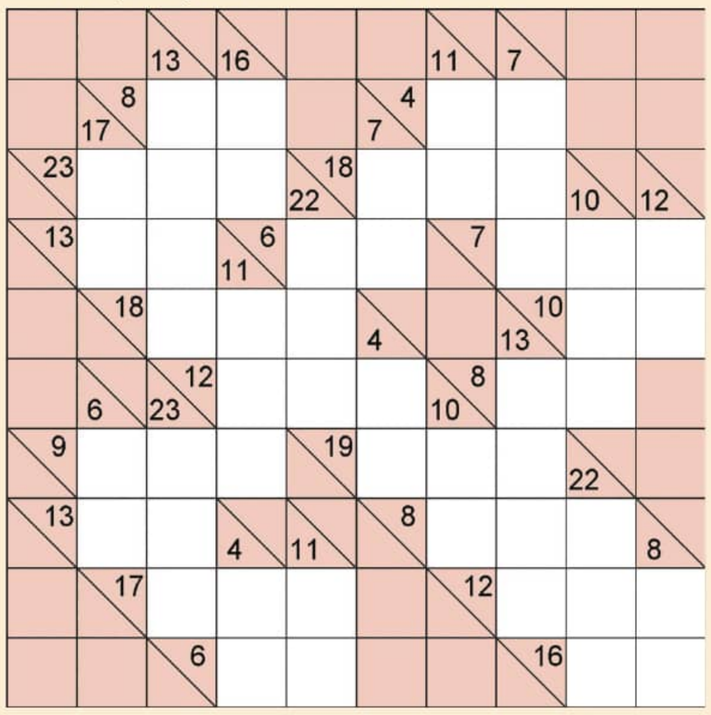
@BangaloreMirror


## Kakuro

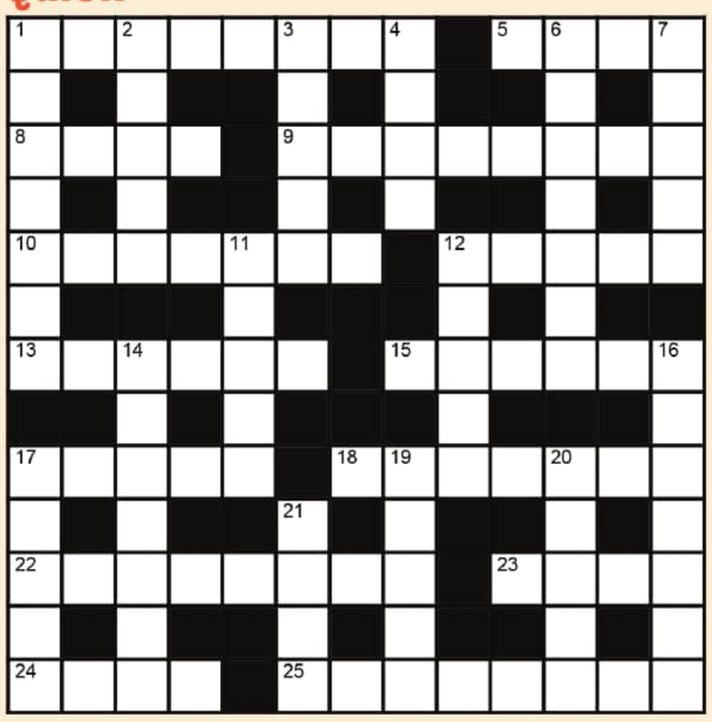
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

1 Continue to talk monotonously on the same theme? (4,4)
5 Apportion (4)
8 The French for 'blue' (4)
9 Attenuated or diluted (8)
10 Block of shares sold (7)
12 Remove impurities (5)
13 Paper handkerchief (6)
15 Frolicsome (6)
17 Bind or fasten? (3,2)
18 Fox–"Near dry" anagram ? (7)
22 Theme park located on the Place Grounds (3,5)
23 Lose attraction (4)
24 Sluggish (4)
25 Veteran (3-5)

**DOWN**

1 Environment (7)
2 Supporting actress ___ Lagoo (5)
3 Portico (5)
4 Agatha Christie's novel (1,2,1)
6 Political refugees (7)
7 ___ Murphy : Hollywood star ? (5)
11 A thick cluster (5)
12 Turn aside or ward off a blow ? (5)
14 Investigate or examine (3,4)
16 Mountain caller (US spelling) (7)
17 Slight quarrels (5)
19 Finished (5)
20 It's ringing will arouse you from your sleep (5)
21 Therefore; hence (4)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: B EQUALS U**

VDKW UFW DMWP RDB AOM. UDBAF UFW DMWP RDB AOM TWOAF. VWU UFW DUFWTP QD.

### Linemaro

I am not David Blaine but I see magic in you

### Mindchow

Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful

### Joke of the day

I told my doctor I broke my arm in two places; he told me to keep out of those places

## Loop

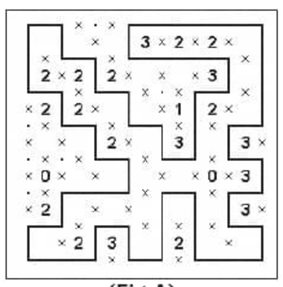
**Rules**

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

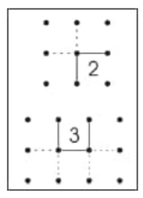
**How to begin:**

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

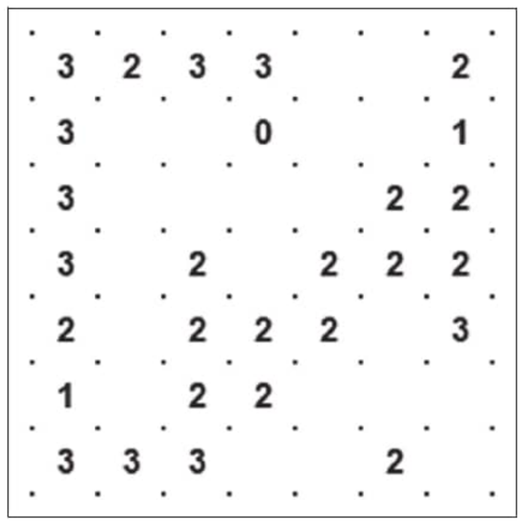
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



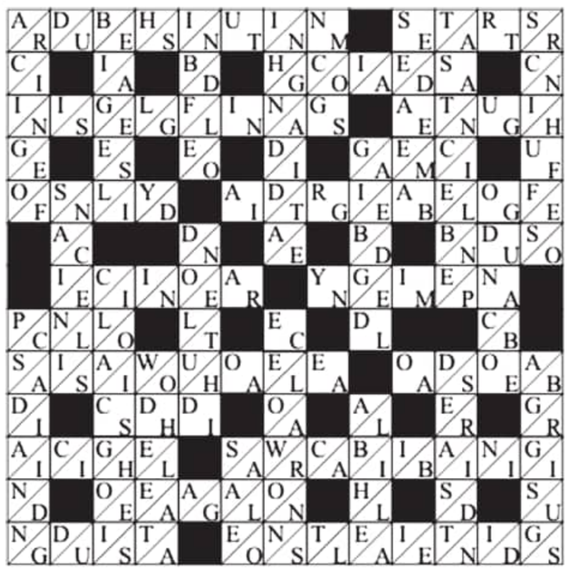
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



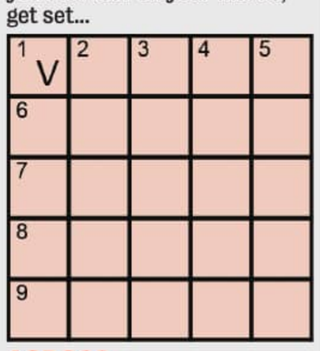
## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



**ACROSS**

1 Veals; 6 Toe me; 7 Lanai; 8 Am dun; 9 My SOS

**DOWN**

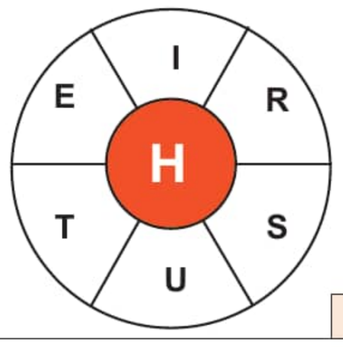
1 Me luv; 2 Naomi; 3 So Lad; 4 Nates; 5 Yes Ma

## Mensapuzzle

Which numbers replace the question mark and complete the puzzle?

| | |
|---|---|
| 8 | 11 |
| 14 | 10 |
| 19 | 16 |
| 30 | 21 |
| 46 | 32 |
| ? | ? |

## Bull's eye




How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

**09** Average; **10** Good; **12** Outstanding

## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 6 | 8 | | 9 | 7 | | |
| 7 | | 8 | | | | 5 | | 4 |
| 3 | | | 2 | | 7 | | | 9 |
| | 7 | | 1 | | 5 | | 3 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | 4 | | 3 | | 2 | | 9 | |
| 1 | | | 5 | | 6 | | | 8 |
| 2 | | 9 | | | | 1 | | 7 |
| | | 5 | 7 | | 1 | 3 | | |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

**Easy** = 5
1 5 8 9

**Medium** = 11
1 4 7 9

**Hard** = 28
4 7 9 9

## Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

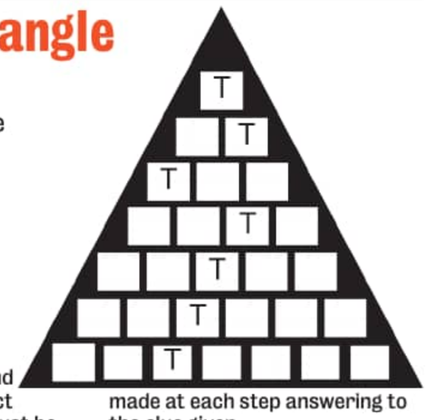
**Differences:** 1. Dog is moved. 2. Pillow is not as wide. 3. Man's collar is different. 4. Man's nose is different. 5. Mattress is thicker. 6. Man has less hair.

## Riddler

What is the answer to the last equation?
5 3 2 = 151012 9 2 4 = 183662 8 6 3 = 482466 5 4 5 = 202504 7 2 5 = ?

## Alpha triangle

1 Tonne, abbr.
2 tu Brute...
3 Brewed beverage
4 After the bell
5 Change
6 Deer horn
7 Hold spellbound




Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.


DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

# COMICS

## Popeye

WHA'S WRONG WIT' HAVIN' A LI'L BOY KID?
IT'S SO PRIMITIVE!
PRIMITIVE!
IT'S SUCH A WASTE OF TIME BEING A CHILD!
YA HASTA BE A LI'L KID TA GROW UP TO BE A PEOPLE!
NOT IF YOU'RE A CLONE!
I LOVES CLOWNS!
1-21
popeye.com

## Bizarrotrip

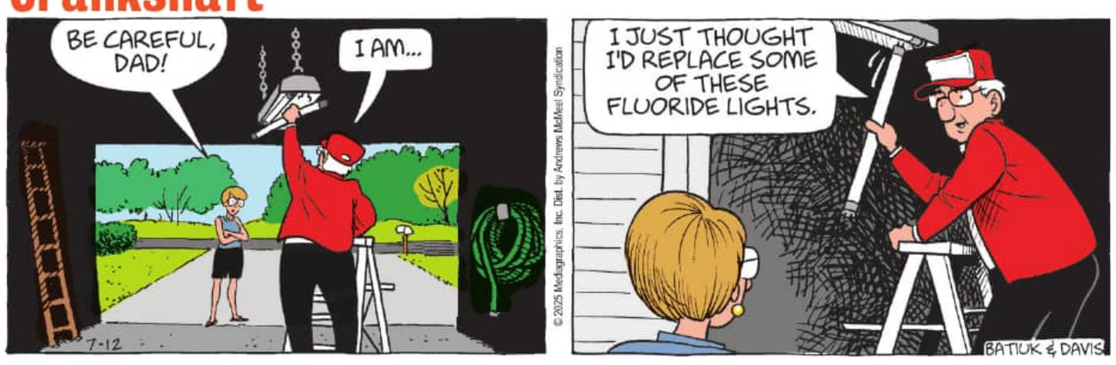
Tell me again what will happen if I don't eat my vegetables.
Wayno & Piraro 7.12.25
Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM
©2025 BIZARRO STUDIOS
MOMINATRIX

## Diamond Lil

## Hart of the city

GUYS. WE MADE IT.
OH, YEAH. THIS IS MORE LIKE IT.
HOW LONG DO YOU WANT TO STAY?
FOREVER!
I'LL LET MOM KNOW ABOUT YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
7-12

## Crankshaft


BE CAREFUL, DAD!
I AM...
I JUST THOUGHT I'D REPLACE SOME OF THESE FLUORIDE LIGHTS.
7-12
© 2025 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
BATIUK & DAVIS

## Mutts

EARL, YOU HAVE A VISITOR.
I DO...!?! THANKS, DUKE.
MOOCH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT DOGGY DAY CAMP
!?!
I SHNUCK OUT OF KITTY DAY CAMP— I HEARD YOU GUYS GET ICE CREAM!
mutts.com
7-12

# WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

## If it's your birthday today

Leadership and determination mark your year. Professionally, opportunities to step forward bring recognition and respect. Finances improve with strategic planning. Relationships strengthen when you balance strength with gentleness. Creative projects thrive with discipline. Health requires consistent effort but rewards resilience. By year's end, you stand proud.

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20

The diyas reflect your inner courage. Festive fire illuminates opportunities, bringing recognition and prosperity. Share joy generously, for every blessing offered today multiplies, ensuring tomorrow glows.

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20

Diwali lamps strengthen stability. Family love anchors your heart, while wealth's gentle flow begins. Gratitude attracts abundance, reminding you that steady devotion builds prosperity lasting for generations.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21

Laughter glimmers like fireworks tonight. New ideas arrive as celebrations sparkle. Your words inspire harmony, opening unexpected doors. Rituals align with destiny.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23

Glowing lamps awaken emotional renewal. Family rituals feel sacred, guiding healing. Your nurturing spirit attracts blessings, while prayers reveal peace. Diwali 's warmth reminds you that love itself is the greatest wealth.

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23

Lights crown you with brilliance. Admiration surrounds you as festivities magnify charisma. A golden chance may emerge today. Remember humility-the universe doubles blessings shared sincerely.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23

Diwali rituals ground you beautifully. Organisation brings lii serenity, while prayers restore balance. A simple conversation lights inspiration. Prosperity unfolds subtly.

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22

Today harmony glows like lamps in twilight. Relationships deepen under festivities, balancing heart and mind. A fresh opportunity aligns with desires. Diwali's light restores elegance, guiding you toward happiness.

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22

Diwali ignites profound transformation. Flames cleanse the past, empowering renewal. Mystical insights arrive, while rituals strengthen faith. Share wisdom with others-the universe rewards generosity.

**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22

Fireworks echo your adventurous spirit. Conversations spark excitement, and future journeys appear clearer. Prosperity flows easily through optimism. Diwali reminds you that joy is your compass .

**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20

Steady devotion shines through today's rituals. Career aspirations sparkle with divine encouragement, while family support anchors celebrations. Lamps remind you that patience builds lasting success.

**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19

Diwali lights spark brilliant visions. Conversations reveal allies who support innovation. Rituals clear old doubts, creating space for originality. Your unique ideas magnetise abundance, proving authenticity is the path to prosperity.

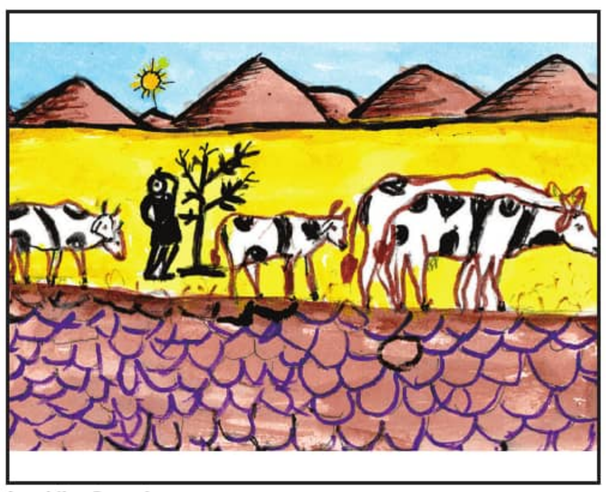
**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20

Diwali awakens divine intuition. Prayers flow gently, – bringing reassurance. Compassion shared today glows endlessly, strengthening bonds. Dreams feel prophetic, guiding abundance.

www.sundeepkochar.com

# KIDZONE

Kiran R, Bengaluru



Anushika, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

# SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M** = 48 /6×8×1 = 64
(6×4×2) / (3×2)×(4×2) × (10^(-2+3-1))

**BULL'S EYE**
heir, heist, hire, HIRSUTE, hurt, rush, shire, shirt, shut, their, thus, usher

**RIDDLER**
10000 × (x × y) + 100 × (x × z) + transpose_digits(x × y + y × z)
transpose_digits() just swaps the digits

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| V | A | L | E | S |
| E | M | O | T | E |
| L | I | A | N | A |
| U | N | D | A | M |
| M | O | S | S | Y |

**STRIKE OUT**

**QUICK**

**MENSA PUZZLE**
73, 48. Starting at the top, add the left and right hand numbers together and subtract 5 to give the lower left number. Add 2 to the left hand number to give the lower right hand number.

**QUOTE UNCODE**
Love the ones you can. Touch the ones you can reach. Let the others go.

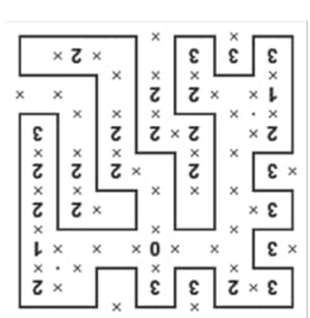
**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 2 |
| 2 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 7 |
| 1 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 8 |
| 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 5 |
| 8 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 1 |
| 9 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 9 |
| 7 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 4 |
| 5 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 |

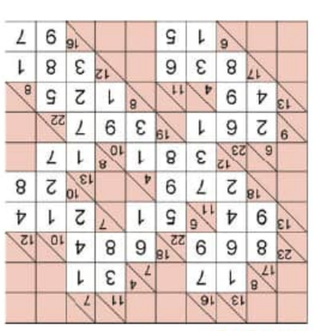
**ALPHA TRIANGLE**
T, Et, Tea, Late, Alter, Antler, Enthral.

**GO FIGURE**
Easy
9 - 8 - 1 + 5 = 5
Medium
9 - 4 + 7 - 1 = 11
Hard
7 - 9 + 9 x 4 = 28

**LOOP**



**KAKURO**



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